

Assembly Bill No. 2274

CHAPTER 1022

An act to add and repeal Section 33319.6 to the Education Code, relating to education, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

[Approved by Governor September 30, 1998. Filed
with Secretary of State September 30, 1998.]

I am signing Assembly Bill No. 2274 with a deletion.

This bill would require the State Department of Education to collect and summarize data on pupil achievement, outcomes, and characteristics for all alternative education programs in addition to data on their funding from various sources, and appropriate \$100,000 to the Department of Education for this purpose.

It is my understanding that this bill is in response to my veto of AB 792 (Havice), a 1997 bill that would have established a method to equalize continuation school funding. In my veto message for AB 729, I stated that we needed information on what impact, if any, the different rates of continuation school funding are producing in student outcomes and achievement. The data collection described in this bill would address many of the concerns raised in my veto of AB 729 and could provided the basis for a meaningful evaluation of continuation school funding and effectiveness.

Although I am signing AB 2274, I am deleting Section 2 in its entirety, which includes the \$100,000 General Fund appropriation. The Department of Education should already be collecting the sort of information described in this bill as part of ongoing program evaluation and administration. But since they have failed to collect the most basic information on these programs, I will support this measure. However, I cannot support providing additional funding for the Department of Education to perform an activity that is already within their existing scope of responsibility.

PETE WILSON, Governor

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2274, Leach. State Department of Education: reporting.

(1) There is in existing law the State Department of Education with various powers and duties pertaining to education.

This bill would require the department, on an annual basis, to collect and summarize specified data pertaining to alternative education programs and to report the results to the State Board of Education, the Governor, the Department of Finance, the Legislative Analyst, the Assembly Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on Education. The bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to appoint an advisory committee, comprised as specified, to assist in the development of the data collection instrument, the data review process, and continued improvement of the data collection system.

The bill would appropriate \$100,000 from the General Fund to the State Department of Education in the 1998-99 fiscal year for the purposes of the bill.

The provisions of the bill would be repealed on January 1, 2002.

The bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Appropriation: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 33319.6 is added to the Education Code, to read:

33319.6. (a) Commencing with the 1998–99 fiscal year, the State Department of Education shall collect and summarize the data described in subdivision (b) and on or before January 1 of the fiscal year following the fiscal year for which data is collected shall report the results to the State Board of Education, the Governor, the Department of Finance, the Legislative Analyst, the Assembly Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on Education.

(b) The State Department of Education shall collect the following data for all alternative education programs, including, but not limited to, continuation high schools, independent study, and alternative schools:

- (1) Student achievement.
- (2) Dropout rates.
- (3) Pupil expulsions and suspensions.
- (4) Return rates of pupils to traditional school settings, including, the regular high school.
- (5) High school graduation rates.
- (6) Demographic data such as ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, as well as data on pupils who are pregnant, parenting, or working while enrolled in school.
- (7) State, federal, and local funding.
- (8) Other data which the department determines would be useful to review the strengths and weaknesses of alternative education programs.

(c) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall appoint an advisory committee to assist with the development of the data collection instrument, the review of the data collected, and continued improvement of the data collection system. The committee shall consist of at least one representative each from the Department of Finance, the office of the Legislative Analyst, the statewide associations representing continuation high schools, independent study, school administrators, and teachers. Members of the advisory committee shall serve without compensation, but the State Department of Education shall reimburse members for travel expenses.

(d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2002, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2002, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 2. The sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund for the 1998–99 fiscal year to the State Department of Education for the purposes of Section 33319.6 of the Education Code.

SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

So that data collection and reporting required by this act may take place as soon as possible, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

